

DATE 3-8-11 (-)

## Skyline Sportsmen's Association, Inc.

**Box 173** 

Butte, Montana 59703

March 8, 2011

Senator Don Steinbeisser, Chairman Members Senate Ag. Committee

Our group strongly opposes H.B. 309 because it is not only unconstitutional by privatizing public water, but wrongly addresses "Ditches" which already are off limits in our present Stream Access Law.

The proponents and "hired guns" should put forth some factual evidence of problems existing where anglers are fishing "Ditches" and trespassing on ditch banks, which are already private property under the law.

Is Huey Lewis funding these paid lobbyists who are proposing to torpedo our Stream Access Law? It's been working well for twenty six years with few problems and ditches were <u>never</u> the problem. The problem is with these new super wealthy landowners that can not stand to see a working stiff and his kids fishing "their" water.

Several Montana veterans have complained to us that after making their individual commitments and sacrifices in the various branches of the armed forces, they have come home to Montana to find that wealthy outsiders have been eroding their public rights to enjoy their rivers and streams.

H.B. 309 does nothing to create new jobs, is not in the best interests of the vast majority of Montana Citizens and will have a very adverse impact on our States' economy. Remember, tourism and recreation are the second largest industry in Montana. Why destroy this annual renewable income just to satisfy a few selfish, wealthy, individuals?

Your <u>NO VOTE</u> on H.B. 309 will be greatly appreciated.

Joe Maloney

President Skyline Sportsmen's Association

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